

**WOODSTOCK, IL** - On Thursday Congresswoman Melissa Bean (IL-08) was joined by State Representative Jack Franks to congratulate Woodstock Fire and Rescue on earning the Assistance to Firefighters Grant in the amount of \$155, 151.00. The grant was awarded by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Office of State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness (SLGCP) with the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA).

Through tireless efforts, Woodstock Fire and Rescue earned this highly competitive grant which will be used to expand their communications capabilities. They will purchase portable radios and mobile data terminals (MDT) that will operate on the same frequencies as neighboring fire departments. The purchase and utilization of these devices will increase communication between departments, optimize the use of available resources and minimize emergency response times to the great benefit of Woodstock and the surrounding communities.

**"Improving communication for first responders is an important Homeland Security priority," Bean said. "The radio and mobile data terminals that will be purchased with this grant will increase communication within Woodstock Fire and Rescue and between other local protection and safety facilities allowing for quicker emergency response times."**

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